

The Bill and Carol

Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry



EMORY
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Undergraduate Humanities Honors Fellows



Zimra Chickering is a senior at Emory studying art history and nutrition science. She is extremely interested in and motivated by the rich sensorial and social experiences of both food and art, across time and place, and the ways in which they both influence cultural communication and belonging. She is writing an art history thesis titled *Reception History, Archival Research, and Embodied Experience: Approaches to Food-Based Relational Artworks*. Her work examines the challenges posed to the art historian by food-based relational artworks, chiefly those created by contemporary artists Michael Rakowitz and Rirkrit Tiravanija. She then explores the opportunities and pitfalls of three different research methodologies used by art historians to examine these artworks. Research in published accounts, archives, and experience of the artwork itself reveal often ignored themes of labor and access that Zimra finds to be key to exploring and better understanding these food-based artworks.



Matthew Croswhite is a fourth-year honors student in history researching ways New England colleges have supported assimilationist actions against Native people with Dr. Malinda Maynor Lowery. Matthew was the head of archival research for [The 1836 Project](#), a digital mapping project exploring Black and Indigenous history at Emory, the lead researcher on a [project remapping Muskogee town sites on the lower Chattahoochee](#), and maintains a [website](#) on the history of cadaver theft, the Lost Cause, and the institutional development of Emory that has been supported through several grants and programs.



Jacob Gibbs is a senior at Emory University pursuing a joint major in History and Art History with a minor in Economics and an unofficial minor in Arabic. Since his first year at Emory, he has conducted research under the guidance of Dr. Susan Gagliardi and Ph.D. Candidate Haley Jones, who is currently a fellow at the Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry Graduate Dissertation Completion (2023-2024). His three-year apprenticeship under Ms. Jones has been especially focused on the seemingly arbitrary yet specific valuation of works of art in the contemporary African art auction market from 2001 to 2020. As he continued his research with Haley and began taking courses with Dr. Gagliardi, he grew fascinated by the discourse surrounding African art's relationship with European modernism of the early twentieth century. His thesis specifically engages with a Kota object often referred to as the "William Rubin Kota," which was offered for auction at Christie's Paris on June 23, 2015, and sold for \$6.112 Million. In this focused study, he examines information available in auction catalogs, comparing the estimated prices and hammer prices of this Kota object with other similarly labeled works offered at other auctions, both before and after 2015. He ultimately seeks to explore the history of the relationship between African art and European modernism to better understand how this has potentially been oversimplified and taken out of context.



Harrison Helms is a senior majoring in history, with primary interests in the religious, social, and cultural history of early modern Europe. His honors thesis project examines how poor relief institutions in the Franco-German borderland of Strasbourg forged a distinct civic identity amid the religious upheavals and mass migrations of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In doing so, he hopes to both transnationalize the Reformations of the early modern period as well as consider the role of welfare institutions in constructing the boundaries of communities. Harrison conducted archival research for this project at the Archives de la Ville in Strasbourg on a Cuttino Scholarship from the Department of History. Previously, he was a Research Assistant at the Candler School of Theology.



Marwah (Mari) Ismail is a senior studying Religion and Italian Studies while on the pre-law track. She is completing a senior honors thesis titled "*Shaping Somali Society: The Impact of the Somali Civil War on Religious Adherence and Identity*," which examines how the Somali Civil War, marked by violence and diaspora, has molded the integration of Sharia Law among Somalis. The intersections of trauma, violence, and religious manipulation create a complex relationship between Sharia Law, religious adherence, and cultural expression, continuing to shape Somali society and individual identities. Mari's research delves into the enduring impact of the war on the intricate dynamics of religion and culture among the Somali people.



Solomon Kim is a composer, cellist, and improviser, studying Music Composition and Economics as a Robert W. Woodruff Dean's Achievement Scholar. His thesis in music composition is entitled "Let's Flood the Market! Reflections on the Commodification of Art." In collaboration with Emory student musicians and groups such as the Atlanta Improvisers Chorus, Solomon is composing/co-creating a recital of seven compositions and improvisations, which will be performed in March of 2024. In doing so, he positions artistic community as a response to the contemporary hyper-commodification of art and explores musical improvisation as a liberatory force. Solomon's work on this thesis has been supported by the Katherine Blumenthal Award, John H. Gordon Stipe Society, and the Dennis L. Kam Composition Award, among other grants and awards.



Ananya Mohan is a senior majoring in both English and Psychology. She is writing her honors thesis in English, intersecting postcolonial theory and science fiction to question how dominant cultural groups regulate political inclusion, deciding who is permitted citizenship and who is not, as well as how the use of technology mediates this relationship. In her work, she examines how hegemonic power structures designate certain people as subhuman - not "real" human beings - deploying a binary of "real" and "unreal" that restricts access to humanity. Her analysis undermines this binary to argue that various groups appropriate or strategically deploy non-dichotomous categories of "real" and "unreal" to continuously negotiate their positions in society.



Oluwasijibomi Osunkoya is a senior double majoring in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology and Music Composition. His honors thesis, titled *Musical Minds*, is an interdisciplinary exploration of the relationship between music and emotion. Through a meta-analysis of current neurological and psychological research, he aims to understand how different aspects of music, such as harmony, tempo, rhythm, and meter, can evoke specific emotional responses in listeners. As part of his honors project, he is composing an original string quartet titled *Imolara*, meaning 'emotion' or 'feeling' in Yoruba. This composition is a four-movement piece, with each movement artistically designed to evoke the emotions of joy, anger, fear, and sadness. His project also includes a written thesis, which will contain in-depth analysis of music and emotions from both theoretical and neurobiological perspectives. This written thesis will also provide a thorough exploration of the themes presented in *Imolara*. This project not only enhances his academic journey but also enriches his experiences as a composer and a student of neuroscience, blending these disciplines to uncover the profound connection between music and human emotion.



Ezra Packard is a senior majoring in Anthropology and minoring in Sustainability. Their honors thesis is titled "The Lives of Urban Agriculturalists: Oral History and Exhibition as Anthropological Research Method." Their thesis works with the Emory Oral History Program to create an oral history collection from interviews with urban agriculturalists in Atlanta and will culminate in a multi-media art exhibition that represents the collection's findings. Ezra is interested in challenging traditional methods of research presentation within anthropology and finding multimodal ways to better connect anthropological research on social justice issues with the broader public and non-academic audiences.



Yingyi Tan is a senior majoring in History and Economics. Her history honor thesis, titled "From the West to the East: American Ginseng in Sino-American Trade," delineates the circulation of American ginseng in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries world. Primarily engaging with Chinese medical and food history, Sino-American interaction history, and early modern maritime trade history, this microhistory on American ginseng aims to complicate one's understanding of Chinese society, the foundation of the Sino-American relationship, and the power dynamic of the early global trade network.



Braden White is majoring in Philosophy and minoring in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. A synthesis of psychoanalysis and phenomenology, her project predominantly employs the work of Julia Kristeva, Melanie Klein, and Maurice Merleau-Ponty. She posits the infant's first love to the figure or site of the maternal, probes the infant's inevitable separation from the mother's body, and reimagines the fate of our original love as abiding by way of the body as conscious.



Chase Wolfsohn is an undergraduate studying Creative Writing and Religion at Emory College of Arts and Sciences. He is currently working on an honors thesis in Creative Writing composed of five interconnected short stories researching the power and intricacies of belief. Using unique characters and scenarios he explores the notions of familial relationships, love, queer identity, and personal memory. From all different walks of life, the characters in his project show the diversity of thought and action when individuals encounter the inexplicable and how religious forms take shape in the modern age. He inquires about themes of subjectivity, motivation, and individuality in a form of research that also contributes to the world of art and entertainment.